A WILD FAMILY.

CURIOUS DISCOVERY MADE AMONG THE BLUE RIDGE FASTNESSES.

A True Tale of the Mountains-Extracts from the Story of a Strange Trio in Lebanon County, Pa .- A Pathetic Incident-The Porsaken Cabin.

We all took station at a little distance from the rickety structure called their home, and the rickety structure called their home, and awaited developments. Presently one of the female creatures ventured shyly to the opening styled the door. The other timidiy leaned forward upon her hands and knees and stretched her head from the side. They looked wild and rude, indeed, and as much excited over our presence as if the steps of civilized beings had never before been heard by them. The one standing had eyes glistening black and rolling in quick excites we by them. The one standing had eyes glistening black and rolling in quick, restless motion, fixed upon the group like two fiery
coals. She darted glances as if on the alert
for the least doubtful movement of her visitors. Her hair of raven darkness stood on
end, very like the jumbled mass of a wheat
sheaf. Never such a luxury as a comb had
been used upon it. Her mouth was thickset,
with strong, broad teeth showing promibeen used upon it. Her mouth was thickset, with strong, broad teeth showing prominently between parted lips. Her complexion was sallow, with a neck tufted with large, brown-coated goiters. The other wild creature was somewhat of a different mold. Her hair was light and strangely matted, overcast with a mixture of tints—brown, gray and yellow—caused by the exposure to the sun. Her eyes were blue and deeply retired, giving the expression of a haunted, frightened and saddened soul. These were sisters, both clad in plain skirts of coarse material and rudely put together. They had no proand rudely put together. They had no pro-tection for their head nor any for their feet. Their arms were bare and brown and hands coarse veined, with finger nails protruding like claws of wild beasts.

As this mutual inspection of awakened curiosity and fright was expressed before the hut, a strange, wild figure was observed lurk-ing in the distance. He trailed his course toward us in quick zig-zag cuts from tree to tree. By the evident emotion of assurance the two sisters expressed over his approach, we concluded this to be their brother, of whom we had heard. Our guide beckened to him and the men went out to meet him. It required special tactics to bring him into confidence. He awaited his fate, standing in brute stupidity. He was tall and heavily set. His face was flabby and sparsely covered with whiskers. His eyes bulged out in bull-dog dullness; his forehead retreated, as evincdog dullness; his forehead retreated, as evincing the idiot, which he was. His hair was a whirlwind of confusion and his skin, in every part of his exposed bedy, tinged with the life color of the hardy mountaineer. He bore with him some tokens of civilized contact, for he had an old "flint-lock" over his shoulder and some game on a spit, which he was about carrying home from his day's exploit. He was put together with an apology of dress not much unlike that of old Rip when awakening from his long sleep. We coaxed awakening from his long sleep. We coaxed him to his haunts, where we found that the ladies had fully ingratiated themselves with the wild sisters.

Our captives were never quite at ease, and only with repeated signs of amity and good will were we able to draw answers from them. Their speech was a vernacular quite their own, and yet with enough Pennsylvania Dutch intersporsed to understand the bearings of their answers. They spoke in doleful tones, with eyes cast to the ground, and their words came eyes cast to the ground, and their words came like the slow droppings of water from the caves of a roof. We described many of the most ordinary things in civilized life, but they shook their heads and declared they had never seen nor heard of them. We inquired into their family history. They were able to tell us their names but not their ages. Bennivell was the name of the brother, who lifted his eyes inquiringly to his sister as she mentioned it. We judged his age to be about 50 years. Hannah was the name of the dark female, aged about 55 years, and Mary the name of the light complexioned, aged about 47 years. There were five members in the family, the parents having died some years TO THE OLD HOME.

Hannah led the way to the old home. It was but a short distance from the present was but a short distance from the present site, and concealed entirely behind a thick growth of large and small trees. It was the simplest structure imaginable, rising to the height of a man, and in proportion about fifteen by twelve feet. It had the shape of an old-fashioned balesoven, overgrown with mosses and thickets in wild profusion. It was plantaged on the incide with old with the mosses and thickets in wild profusion. It was plastered on the inside with clay, which had hardened with time like rock. There was no window within, no opening of any kind to the dark caverned hut, save the front aperture known as the door. Nor did we enter. That was a sacred threshold to these untatored and unchristianized beings. Hannah's save of the holy would have been outraged had ever any human foot ventured upon that had over any human foot ventured upon that floor. Her parents died there, and well does she remember the dark days in their history when they carried mother and their father into the valley below. Even in the savage breast can be found the beatings of love and ep seated instinct of reverence.

In that hut lived the Laub family during many winters. Since the day the aged parents were carried out, dead, Bennivell, Hannah and Mary never entered again to abide there. They declared to us their fear that the existing that the spirits of the dead might come back again. A strange tinge of the superstitious entered into their nature. A rudely con-structed barrel had somehow found its way hither, into which they pressed the juice of wild fruit to make a sour drink we style vinegar. Upon its head was affixed an upright stick, with apples fastened in the shape of a cross. "That," said Hannah, "is to keep out the witches," Dried bones of certain portions of wild beasts, with good luck feathers of birds, and elongated skeletons of snakes and roots of rare plants were strung upon their bickery whips as charms against the evil spirits of the mountain caverns, and these were the only adornments of their pres-

It was intimated that these wild people had nover before heard music. After our re-turn a quaint plantation song soon filled the roof of their hut. Never did the harmony of music fall so strangely upon ears as here. The soprano, alto, tenor and basso flowed out upon those woods in weird-like tones. In the midst of our song Hannah pleaded with us to stop, as she pointed to the timid Mary, crouching in agony within the fireplace. Her large bine eyes were partly covered by her matted hair, thrown forward, and she looked out at us in melting sadness. She interceded:
"Sing not—singing makes people die!" We
left. Hannah looked the picture of great relief as she watched us from the hut making our downward retreat. The poor children of the forest! but, thanks, they, too, are blessed with a measure of happiness.—Myerstown (Pa.) Cor. Philadelphia Times.

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